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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 23 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the Turkish incursion into Iraq, issued on 16 May 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Turkish incursion into Iraq, issued on 16 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The Presidency of the European Union notes with concern the fact that the Turkish armed forces have once again entered northern Iraq. Notwithstanding its understanding of the Turkish wish to end terrorist actions, the Presidency of the European Union stresses that a solution to the Kurdish problem can only be achieved politically, not militarily. It calls on Turkey to exercise the utmost restraint, to respect human rights, not to endanger the lives of innocent civilians and to withdraw its military forces from Iraqi territory as soon as possible.